



Dear Citizens,

About two weeks ago I spoke at the funeral for slain Baltimore City Police Officer Troy Chesley. The pain caused by his senseless death could be seen on the faces of his family, friends and colleagues. His family lost a loving son and father, his friends lost a trusted companion, and Baltimore lost a dedicated police officer and role model. Hoping to find a way out from under the collective despair, I appealed to the crowd that “we must stand together as a community against those who do not understand what community is.”

There’s no question that far too many lives are devastated by gun crime. One is too many. I believe we are obligated to deliver more than rhetoric for our children and our City’s future. As Mayor, my responsibility to the citizens is to provide proven strategies and effective leadership to eliminate the crime and violence that degrades our neighborhoods and dominates the headlines.

Last week, with the help of Police Commissioner Leonard Hamm, my Administration took the first steps to address the scourge of gun violence in Baltimore by adopting a more collaborative, holistic strategy.

To begin moving forward, I plan on holding a community forum on gun violence. By bringing together the Mayor’s Office with police and community leaders, we can address the root causes of gun violence, and develop neighborhood-specific solutions. There’s only so much the police or a community organization can do. We all need to be involved.

On January 23rd, I joined with Mayors from 27 states and the District of Columbia to discuss and exchange ideas to combat illegal gun trafficking. We pledged to give law enforcement more tools to catch and incarcerate gun criminals and punish gun dealers who knowingly put guns in the hands of those criminals. The shared knowledge and support from across the nation will be a tremendous asset to my Administration as we formulate ways to rid Baltimore of guns and gun violence.

The great writer James Baldwin once wrote, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." I hope and pray that by having our police get more involved in the communities they serve, they will start to imitate the Officer Chesley’s of the world instead of those misguided souls who destroy good people and their own communities.

At Officer Chesley’s funeral, I promised to honor his life by working to make Baltimore safer for his children. He loved Baltimore and devoted his life to defending it. He did not stand on the sidelines, and neither should we.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor
Baltimore

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Total Health Care and United Healthcare (Testing and Counseling)

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

New Shiloh Baptist Church
2100 N. Monroe Street

Sisters Together and Reaching and Coppin State University Testing and Counseling

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Tawes Ballroom
2500 W. North Avenue

Women Accepting Responsibility

12 noon – 2:00 pm at Maryland Correctional Institute for Women, Jessup

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at Bright Hope Recovery House, 1611 Baker Street, Baltimore

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm at The New Song School, 1385 North Gilmore Street, Baltimore

Saturday Stories at the Top

February 3 – February 24, 2007

Saturdays, 11:00 am

Observation Level
World Trade Center
401 East Pratt Street
27th Floor

This year, Top of the World Observation Level celebrates Black History Month in a unique way, with Saturday Stories at the Top. Each Saturday in February, storytellers teach children of the African and African American culture through creative, imaginative, and exciting tales, at 11a.m. The event is presented by Mayor Sheila Dixon and Top of the World Observation Level.

Admission Fee: \$5 for adults \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children. Advance group rates are available.

Phone : 410-837-8439

For registrations or questions please click [here](#)